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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 25 WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 21, 1912. WHOLE NO. 77

A RAISE FOR POSTAL MEN

Washington, Sept. 21.—Promotion for 13,000 railway postal clerks on October 1, so it is reported, will be provided in orders to be issued by the Postmaster General. In the railway mail service there are 16,700 clerks and a majority of those not promoted on October 1 will receive more pay before the end of the current fiscal year. More than $1,000,000 will be expended in making the promotions. A reorganization of the railway mail service and increased pay for postal clerks were authorized in the recently enacted post-office appropriation bill. The new law provides for three classes of railway postal lines with their transfer and terminal offices. The compensation will be higher for lines on which work is heaviest, beginning with $900 a year. All clerks who render faithful and efficient service will receive annual raises of $100 until they reach the maximum of the successive annual grades for which they may be promoted for specially meritorious service until their pay reaches $1,800 a year. Chief clerks in the railway mail service receive salaries of $2,000. Hitherto it has been the custom to promote railway clerks only when vacancies occur from death, vacancy, or removal. Hereafter railway clerks will have assurance of annual promotion, so long as they faithfully discharge their duties. This is the method applied satisfactorily for several years in adjusting the compensation of post-office clerks and city letter carriers, but the range of salaries for railway clerks will be higher because of the hazardous character of their work.

TRAIN WRECKS.

Washington, Sept. 21.—Within the recent past the record of killed and injured on the various railroads throughout the country have not lessened in number. The following disasters have been casually culled from reports: There were twenty-eight persons injured, many seriously, when a train on the Nickel Plate, at Sagan, Pa., was derailed. Two persons were killed and six others injured by a switch engine colliding with a Pennsylvania passenger train near Derry, Pa., recently. A mail clerk on the Chicago Northwestern Railroad was seriously injured in a wreck at Lyndhurst, and he died shortly after, making seven deaths the total number of persons killed in the wreck. Two persons were killed and a score more or less seriously injured when a passenger train on the Rutland (Vt.) Railroad collided with a mail train at Bennington, Vt. Two men were killed and other persons seriously injured on the Baltimore and Ohio when a passenger train ran into a work train in the yards at Cincinnati. A conductor and a brakeman on a freight train on the Virginian Railroad at Hotchkiss, W. Va., were killed in a collision. The Wabash Mail on the New York Central, running sixty miles an hour, jumped the track at Morton, N. Y., and fatally injured the fireman and two passengers. Twenty-five persons suffered injuries on the line of the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company, near Winlock, Wash., when a train jumped the track and rolled down an embankment. In a wreck on the United States Spruce Company's Railroad, near Fairwood, Va., an engineer was instantly killed and others injured while rounding a curve. A wreck on the New York Central at East Rochester killed three men and seriously injured two others, three freight trains coming together in a collision.

SOCIALIZING SCHOOLS.

Washington, Sept. 21.—At the next general State election in November the voters of Colorado are to pass upon the proposition for placing the playgrounds, recreation, neighborhood, and social centers, public baths, public libraries, and schools under the same authority, says the September number of the Survey. The proposed amendment also provides that except during school hours school houses shall be open to the people for the discussion of public questions concerning their civic, social, business, and political affairs. At present the conduct of the schools is regulated and controlled by general State Statutes. Judge Ben Lindsey is the author of this proposition. An advanced indication of the way the people are likely to vote has already been given at the last municipal election in Denver. The people defeated by 10,000 majority a proposed amendment to the city charter to create a fixed board to take over the playgrounds, largely because it interfered with the plan of centralization.

NEW LAW FOR CANAL ZONE.

Washington, Sept. 21.—It is reported from official sources that the President has determined to apply the salient features of the Workmen's Compensation Act, which passed the Senate during the last session of Congress, to the Panama Canal Zone. Under the Panama Canal Act the President was empowered to make the laws for the Zone by executive order. It is stated that the workmen's compensation bill referred to has been redrafted to suit the needs of the Zone, and has been sent to Panama for the approval of the officials there. It is stated that as soon as the bill has been passed upon by the officials in charge of the Panama Canal work and returned to this city a proclamation will follow and the law become effective.

FOR CHILD WELFARE.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The outdoor moving picture as an educational and recreational factor is being given a trial in Montreal, Canada. The child welfare moving picture committee was formed to educate the people and to create a civic demand for the child's weal. The city parks are being used and three performances a week are being given. The pictures have been chosen to illustrate child welfare as well as other subjects, both educational and frivolous. During the first week the attendance was 40,000.

MOLDERS WIN STRIKE.

Utica, N. Y., Sept. 21.—After a three months' struggle the Iron Molders' Union and Foundry Employes have secured a settlement with the International Heater Company, manufacturers of hot air and water furnaces. The terms of the settlement include the recognition of shop committees, readjustment of prices and the reinstatement of the members, approximating 100 in number. This is considered a splendid victory.

PLUMBERS WIN STRIKE.

Savannah, Ga., Sept. 21.—The Plumbers' Union, after being on strike for a few days for an increase in wages of 50 cents per day, has secured a settlement and the men have returned to work. The wages prior to the strike were $3.50 per day and the new wage scale calls for $4. Conditions have been improved and with the increase mentioned the union has been materially strengthened.

STREET CAR ARBITRATION

Chicago, Sept. 21.—According to the Union Leader, the official publication of the street car employes of this city, an agreement for arbitration on the surface lines has been signed with the Chicago Street Railway Company, and the decision which will be rendered by the arbitration board will become effective with both the elevated and surface companies. Judge Scanlan will represent the street carmen on the arbitration board, and Harvey B. Fleming, vice president of the City Railway Company, has been nominated to represent the traction companies. The selection of a third member has not yet been announced. The questions to be arbitrated are: Hours of service for trainmen, week days and Sundays, including fall backs for meals; question of night cars, hours of labor and wages paid trainmen thereon; wages of all trainmen, including trainmen on sprinkler, cinder, supply, and other cars; wages and working conditions for car repairing, and numerous other classes of labor. President Mahon, of the international organization, who has been appointed to present the case of the street car employes before the arbitration board, with an active subcommittee, is engaged in preparing for the big task of presenting the case.

BARS CONCILIATORS.

Philadelphia, Sept. 21.—In a letter addressed to Judge Martin A. Knapp, of the United States Commerce Court and Charles P. Neill, United States Commissioner of Labor, recently made public, General Manager S. C. Long of the Pennsylvania Railroad placed the company on record as against treating with a committee from the Order of Railroad Telegraphers in the matter of wage adjustments. The letter denied the existence of any situation which would justify the acceptance of the offices of the federal officials named as mediators, as requested by the Order of Railroad Telegraphers seeking arbitration under the Erdman Act. The company states it is already treating with one organization of telegraphers. The Pennsylvania Railroad is the sponsor for an alleged organization of telegraphers which belongs to the company in fee simple. This organization was founded, of course, in order to fight the legitimate organization of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, the company organization being nothing more or less than a paper organization. Therefore, the railroad company takes the position "that in view of the fact that the company is on the point of giving satisfactory reply to a committee representing the employees of the telegraph department the company declines to treat with two committees representing the same class of employes." The Order of Railroad Telegraphers have not as yet taken any definite action in the matter.

PRESSMEN RETURN.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 21.—Some two weeks ago the Atlanta Web Pressmen's Union was locked out from the three dailies, the Constitution, the Georgian, and the Journal, after failing to reach an agreement with the publishers for a renewal of their contract. The newspapers in question attempted to establish the open shop, but the pressmen refused to accept the dictim of the employers. The pressmen, after endeavoring to reach an adjustment of the difficulty with the employers and, failing, sought the assistance of the Atlanta Federation of Trades. A committee was appointed from this latter organization, and after negotiations lasting two days, a contract satisfactory to both the pressmen and the publishers was entered into, and the pressmen have returned to their former positions on the papers involved in the controversy. In the Journal of Labor, published by Jerome Jones, an editorial compliments the wisdom of the pressmen and the employers, and emphasizes the influence exercised by the central body in securing this settlement.

PROBING LIVING COST.

Washington, Sept. 21.—A board of naval officers has been appointed by the commandant of the Washington Navy Yard and is at work to determine the real facts regarding the employes' petition to Congress for an increase in pay on the grounds of the high cost of living. The wage scale of the navy yard employes is based, to a large extent, upon the prevailing scale in the immediate industrial territory in which the yard is located. The industrial section, as applied to Washington, includes Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other cities. The board is making inquiries into the cost of living in these cities and will compare them with the cost of living in the navy yard district of Washington. Upon the completion of the board's investigation it is expected that a raise will be granted.

TO TAKE OVER RAILWAY.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 21.—The City Council has adopted a resolution instructing the city legal department to take steps to acquire the Duluth Street Railway as city property. The action of the council was due to the strike which has been in progress here for a week, and the refusal of the manager of the street railway company to arbitrate differences with a number of its employes. A special election will be called to pass on public ownership. An act of the legislature, which assembles next January, will be necessary to authorize an issue of bonds.

STRAUS RESIGNS.

New York, Sept. 21.—Oscar S. Straus, chairman of the arbitration board which has under consideration the demands of the engineers of fifty railroads for more pay and better working conditions, has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted by the board. Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, President of the University of Wisconsin, was elected to fill the vacancy. The resignation was due to the fact that Mr. Straus has received the nomination for Governor of New York on the Progressive ticket. Mr. Straus still remains a member of the board, however.

STREET CARMEN VICTORIOUS.

Joplin, Mo., Sept. 21.—The union street carmen of this city have won a complete victory and perhaps the greatest ever won in the Joplin-Pittsburgh mining district. Some time ago 200 motormen, conductors and barnmen, comprising the entire operating force of the Joplin and Pittsburgh Railway Company, went on strike. The trouble arose over the discharge of one of the employes, and upon the company reinstating the discharged employe the men returned to work.

GUNMAKERS STRIKE.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 21.—One hundred and twenty-five machinists and assemblers employed at the Colt Patent Fire Arms Company struck here recently when a general reduction in the price of piece work was announced by the company.

A BIG MEETING SCHEDULED

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 21.—On December 9, 10, and 11 one of the biggest general meetings ever held in the South will take place in this city at the Baptist tabernacle. A committee of fifty zealous unionists in Atlanta is now perfecting arrangements, and about 1,500 invitations are to be sent out, inviting all of the unions in this section to be represented at the meeting. Representatives of all the international organizations in the country will be invited to come and preach their doctrines to the organized and unorganized at that time. No limitation as to time or subject will be made. Particular attention will be paid to the unorganized. Arrangements for discussions on the needs in the workshop, in the pay envelope, in hazardous occupations, in child and woman labor, in industrial and political conditions. Jerome Jones, editor of the Journal of Labor, is chairman of the committee. Waldo C. Puckett, former secretary of the Georgia Federation of Labor, is secretary.

MINNESOTA NEWS.

St. Paul, Sept. 21.—It is reported that the Trades and Labor Council of Red Wing has just been chartered by the American Federation of Labor, and also that the Sewer Pipe Workers of that city have just perfected an organization. The Web Pressmen's lockout in this city is still on, and the labor movement in Minnesota is waging a campaign against the Pioneer Press and Dispatch for their unfairness in not treating with the Pressmen's union with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement. John Taylor, a member of the Iron molders' union, and the local organizer of the American Federation of Labor at Brainerd, has been appointed a member of the water and light board of that city to assist in the conduct of the municipally-owned plant. The Minnesota State Federation of Labor is sending out question blanks to the candidates for the coming State legislature, and will make a vigorous contest to secure the election of those favorable to the measures advocated by labor, and will be equally vigorous against those who are not in favor of humanitarian legislation. The question blanks include the initiative and referendum, workmen's compensation, minimum wage for women and children, eight hours for women, State insurance, payment of wages, crusade against tuberculosis, semi-monthly pay day, popular inspection, to limit the power of courts, and to amend the eight-hour law.

PREPARING PLANS.

Washington, Sept. 21.—Naval instructors are at work on the plans for the battleship Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania will carry twelve 14-inch guns. This is a heavier armament than is possessed by any United States battleship or any European fighting ship at the present time. Her length, it is reported, will be 630 feet, 55 feet longer than that of the largest battleship in this navy, built or building. Her beam will be between 95 and 100 feet, permitting her to pass through the Panama Canal locks. With the increased length the Pennsylvania will gain in speed more than one knot over the twenty-one knots which the New York is expected to make. It has not yet been decided whether turbine or reciprocating type of engines will be installed. The vessel will use only oil as fuel, and the economy in space resulting by the elimination of coal bunkers and the substitution of oil tanks will in part contribute to her ability to make speed. Her tonnage will be about 31,000 tons.

PLAINTIFFS' FINISH.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 21.—The prosecution in the famous Danbury hatters' case has submitted all the testimony and the defense will now have an opportunity to present its side of the case. The trial is being held before Judge James L. Martin and a jury in the United States Court. Daniel Davenport, the attorney for the Anti-boycott Association, has conducted the case for the prosecution, as in the former trial, when the Loewe Hat Company secured a verdict under the Sherman anti-trust law, which, when trebled, amount to $222,000 and costs. The defense will occupy considerable time in defending the position of the hatters in this case and a verdict is not looked for inside of six weeks.

OUR FRATERNAL DELEGATES.

Washington, Sept. 21.—During the sessions of the British Trade Union Congress, recently held at Newport, England, the fraternal delegates from the American Federation of Labor to the congress—George L. Berry, president of the International Printing Pressmen's Union, and John H. Walker, president of the Illinois State coal miners' organization—delivered addresses. The newspapers in reporting the declarations of the two fraternal delegates denominated them as "fighting speeches." Both delegates were presented with "a piece of silver plate, suitably inscribed, and a gold necklet and pendant to their wives."

EXTENSION OF TIME.

Washington, Sept. 21.—Secretary Nagel, of the Department of Commerce and Labor, has extended to October 1 the time for equiping passenger-carrying steamers with life-saving apparatus under the new law which provides for stricter regulations. The extension was granted when it was found that a scarcity of life-saving apparatus made it impossible for all the steamers to get their equipment within the time limit granted by the first ruling. The extension applies to all steamship lines alike throughout the country. A 30 per cent life-saving equipment during the summer months is required under the new steamboat extension rules, with a full equipment after October 1.

INDUSTRIAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The Survey is authority for the statement that Lansing, Mich., is the most recent imitator of the industrial high school of Fitchburg, Mass. As in the University of Cincinnati, the American parent of such undertakings, the boys will work in pairs. While one boy is at the machine and being paid for his work his mate will be receiving formal school-room instruction, but the next week they will exchange places. As yet the work for girls is in a nebulous state.

FORCED TO WORK OVERTIME.

Boston, Sept. 21.—Charges were recently made by a local attorney that women employes in certain hotels in this city have been compelled to work more than fifty-four hours a week in violation of the State laws. The matter has been taken up and will be investigated shortly by the grand jury, announcement to this effect having been made from the office of the district attorney.

NEWS LETTER CHANGE.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The American Federation of Labor Weekly News Letter has made application and secured the second-class mailing privilege, and after this issue will be mailed in wrappers similar to newspapers. Upon the inauguration of the News Letter it consisted of ten pages and was run off on a neostyle and mailed in envelopes. Just recently a change was made by supplying the labor and reform press with seven columns of printed matter. Owing to the growth of the News Letter, and it being now printed in a manner which makes it eligible to secure the second-class rate, that rate will be taken advantage of in the near future. It was deemed advisable to insert this notice for the purpose of informing those who regularly receive the letter so that they may be made aware of the manner in which they will receive the News Letter hereafter.

A STRICT INTERPRETATION.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The heads of executive departments of the government are of the opinion that no employe can be discharged or dismissed by them until the person or persons whose services are to be dispensed with are furnished with a copy of duly drawn charges and given opportunity to reply to them. This interpretation is made in view of the provisions of Rule 12 of the Civil Service rules. It is further stated that the drivers of carriages for the President, cooks and mechanics cannot be discharged from the service without being given the full measure of protection under the rule. Several department solicitors and other local officers of the government have been directed to find out how far Section 6 of the Postoffice Appropriation bill will change the Civil Service rules. Heretofore Rule 12 applied only to positions of the competitive service. Section 6 of the Appropriation bill says: "All persons of the classified civil service of the United States," without any equivocation whatever. This includes all persons in excepted positions, all private secretaries and confidential clerks, all persons appointed by the President without confirmation by the Senate, attorneys, assistant attorneys, and special assistant attorneys, Chinese and Japanese interpreters, any person employed in a foreign country under the State Department, any position of quasi-military or naval character, mechanics and skilled tradesmen or laborers and many others specified in the various departments.

WOMAN AS CHAINMAN.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 21.—For the first time in the history of this State a woman is an applicant for the position of chainman in the State engineering service. She took the recent State civil service examination for appointment to that position, together with 379 other applicants, and is among the 179 successful candidates. As she is the only female eligible for appointment, her name can be certified among the first three successful candidates, although she ranks No. 100 on the list. She is the wife of a civil engineer, and her application papers state that she has studied engineering for over two years and had served as "instrument man" on farm surveying of lands and laying out streets. She speaks German, French, and Spanish. The position to which she aspires pays $2 per day.

QUARRY WORKERS' NEWS.

Barre, Vt., Sept. 21.—In the election just closed, Fred W. Suitor, of this city, has been re-elected as secretary-treasurer of the Quarry Workers' International Union. During the past two years fifty-four branches of this organization have negotiated successfully new agreements, and in every case, save two, gains have been secured. The membership has increased 1,000, and the organization is now in a healthier condition than ever before, with brighter prospects of a greater increase in membership in the coming year. A new local organization has just been chartered at Harrington Island, British Columbia.

TEXAS CARPENTERS.

Houston, Tex., Sept. 21.—The Texas State Council of Carpenters is working on a plan to build a home for the indigent and disabled carpenters of the State. In a recent issue of the Texas Carpenter a half tone of the proposed building is printed. If the plans are carried out the carpenters of the State will eventually have a magnificent building, which will be a credit to the ability and progressiveness of the Texas carpenters.

NO SETTLEMENT YET.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The wage controversy between the Railway Brotherhoods and the Southeastern Railroads is still unsettled. Judge Martin A. Knapp and Labor Commissioner Neill, Federal Mediators, are still endeavoring to bring about an agreement in the wage controversy at Norfolk, Va., and then these officials will immediately depart for this city and take up the Southeastern Railway controversy.

MOLDERS ON STRIKE.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 21.—Members of Local Union No. 255, International Iron Molders of North America, are on strike in this district for a nine-hour day and a $3.25 minimum wage. Nine foundries out of seventeen have already granted the increase, and the prospects are that the balance of the firms will soon capitulate.

UNIONS TO HAVE EXHIBIT.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 21.—The Birmingham Trades Council has appointed a committee with power to act to prepare an exhibit for the coming Alabama State Fair. In this exhibit every article which bears the union label made in the Birmingham district will be placed in the display.

ENGINEERS CLOSE CONVENTION.

St. Paul, Sept. 21.—The International Union of Steam Engineers closed its biennial convention in this city on the fourteenth, after having transacted a large amount of business. Matt Comerford was re-elected president, and John J. Hannahan re-elected general secretary-treasurer.

UNION MEN FOR CONGRESS

Washington, Sept. 21.—Information is coming in to headquarters with reference to a number of union men who have either been nominated for Congress or are aspiring for the nomination. Timothy F. Healey, President of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen, has been nominated for Congress in the Sixteenth New York Congressional district by the Progressive party. Harry J. Skeffington, a member of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, and for many years active in the labor movement, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Congress in one of the districts adjacent to Boston. David J. Hanvey, of Englewood, N. J., a stone cutter, is a candidate for the nomination to Congress. Cornelius J. Ford, a union printer, of Hoboken, N. J., is a candidate for nomination on the Democratic ticket for Congress. Charles A. Sumner, of Kansas City, a union stereotyper, is a candidate for Congress on the Progressive ticket. T. P. Fahey, of Cheyenne, Wyo., a union coal miner, has been nominated for Congress on the Democratic ticket. Ed. Keating, of Colorado, member of typographical union, has been nominated for Congress on the Democratic ticket.

CIGARMAKERS IN SESSION.

Baltimore, Sept. 21.—The International Cigarmakers' Union opened its convention in this city on Tuesday, September 17. This is the first convention held by the organization in sixteen years, and is attended by delegates from every part of this country and from Cuba and Porto Rico. Three hundred and ninety-nine delegates were reported by the committee on credentials. There is not a single woman delegate in the convention. Nearly one-fourth of the cigarmakers to-day, asserted President Perkins, are women, and although there are many women in the cigarmakers' unions, yet for some reason not a single one secured election as delegate. It is proposed by delegates of this convention that a change be made in the pension fund. Another proposition is to establish a home for aged cigarmakers and many changes in the laws are being proposed. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, is a delegate to the convention.

WALL PAPER STRIKE.

Pittsburg, Sept. 21.—A general strike of the employes of the Wall Paper Manufacturers' Association, which has thirty-five factories throughout the country, one of the largest of which is in Brooklyn, is threatened. It is stated that 500 members of the Machine Printers and Color Mixers' Union are on strike already in the factories, thus throwing into idleness between 4,000 and 5,000 helpers and laborers. Unless a settlement is reached in the near future the entire wall paper manufacturing trade is likely to be brought to a standstill. The controversy is over the renewal of an expired agreement. Representatives of the board of mediation and arbitration, of New York, are endeavoring to bring both sides together with a view to a settlement.

OPERATORS DECLINE.

Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 21.—Some time ago the Governor of this State inaugurated a movement whereby the differences existing between the coal operators and the coal miners in the Kanawha and other districts of the State, where a controversy is raging, could be settled by arbitration. The miners indorsed the plan, and were ready to submit their grievances to an arbitration board. The fields in question are not entirely union, there being a large number of nonunion men involved. The operators, owing to this fact, refuse to accept arbitration as a plan of settlement, protesting that neither the union nor nonunion men would abide by any decision arrived at. There is a committee appointed by the Governor making an investigation.

TO STUDY CONDITIONS.

Los Angeles, Sept. 21.—This fall the voters of this city will have an opportunity to change their charter, so as to create an industrial department in the city government. The object of this department, if created, is to give special heed to all matters coming before the City Council which relate to industry and labor. It is proposed that the new department shall study industrial conditions with a view to promoting industrial conditions with a view to promoting industrial prosperity and bettering the life of the laborer. It appears that organized labor has made its impress upon this city to such an extent that the public is coming to the conclusion that something ought to be done to eliminate the antagonism of certain elements against the labor movement.

INDICT CAR COMPANY.

Boston, Sept. 21.—As a result of the street car strike in this city an indictment charging coercion has been returned by the Suffolk County grand jury against the Boston Elevated Railway Company. The indictment contains four accounts. The first two charges the coercion of two employes into an agreement to become members of an organization of "loyal" employes as a condition to their continuing in the employ of the corporation. The third and fourth accounts charge that persons, whose names were unknown to the jurors, were coerced into an agreement not to join a labor union as a condition precedent to securing employment with the company.

HOLD "SAFETY" MEETING.

Kansas City, Sept. 21.—A "safety" rally in which a large number of people took part was recently held in this city under the auspices of the Santa Fe Railroad. The purpose of the meeting was to impress upon railway employes the necessity of putting safety ahead of all other considerations. Lessons on how care will promote safety were given by moving pictures, which were explained, and the "safety habit" was discussed. The Santa Fe claims that as a result of its "safety habit" campaign the number of accidents has decreased 20 per cent within the past ten months.

BUILDING COUNCIL DEFUNCT.

Joplin, Mo., Sept. 21.—The Joplin Building Trades Council, which has been endeavoring to run independent, has ceased to exist. This council while chartered by the Building Trades Department was an influencial body, but decided to take the independent course, and as a result it has finally gone to pieces.

TRACKMEN STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Sept. 21.—Following the demand for a $2 a day wage the trackmen at Newell, Pa., on the Pittsburg and Lake Erie Railroad went on strike recently. Two hundred construction men also laid down their tools. The strikers number about 500.

ENFORCE NEW POSTAL LAW

Washington, Sept. 21.—The Postmaster General has issued the necessary orders and instructions for putting into effect the newspaper and periodical publicity law, the first returns of which must be made October 1. Appropriate return blanks are being mailed to all publishers. The law requires that publishers shall file on the first days of October and April of each year, both with the Postmaster General and with the local postmasters, under penalty of the denial of the use of the mails, sworn returns of the names and addresses of the owner, publisher, editor, managing editor and business manager of all newspapers and periodicals, with the exception of religious, fraternal, temperance and scientific publications, and also, when a corporation, the names of the holders of the stocks, bonds or other securities, and in the case of daily newspapers, a statement of the average paid circulation for the preceding six months. All editorial or other reading matter appearing in a newspaper or magazine for the publication of which pay is accepted or promised must be marked "Advertisement," under a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $500. According to the terms of the law trade union publications are not in the excepted class, and will be compelled to make report the same as other newspapers and periodicals.

RUBBER WORKERS OF PERU.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The State Department has sent a representative up the Amazon River country to secure definite information relative to the native rubber gatherers in Peru. Representations to the department are to the effect that a repetition of the horrors of the Congo rubber industry are being perpetrated in the Amazon country. Natives are forced by torture and mutilations to collect a maximum quantity of rubber each day.

Sir Roger Casement, consul general of Great Britain, makes a most startling report concerning the situation, and in it he says: "The rubber industry in the forests of the Amazon is an appalling revelation of crime, lust, and cruelty. The vilest tortures which could be conceived by the most depraved mind have been practiced upon the wretched slaves who gather rubber. Civilization stands self-condemned if it permits these conditions to exist—even in darkest South America."

Failing joint action by the powers, some country must take action alone. If Germany in her desire for colonial expansion should turn her eyes in this direction, who of those who stand aside dare say her nay? Probably it is this last expression by the consul general which has influenced our State Department to make an investigation before European countries intervene.

CARPENTERS' CONVENTION.

Washington, Sept. 21.—The United Brotherhood of Carpenters opened its biennial convention in this city on Monday, September 16. The entire time of three days was taken up by the credential committee's report. At the last convention an amendment to the constitution was adopted prohibiting general organizers of the brotherhood being delegates from their local unions to the biennial conventions. In another part of the constitution a section provides that all members of the brotherhood shall be entitled to all the rights and benefits of the organization so long as they are in good standing. A number of the local unions elected general organizers as delegates. A long and interesting session was held over this one subject, but finally the convention decided that the organizers of the brotherhood were not entitled to retain their seats as delegates from their local unions. Up to the time of the News Letter going to press (September 18) the regular business of the convention had not yet been reached.

WOMEN CONDUCTORS.

Philadelphia, Sept. 21.—A new line of work has been discovered for women. The Rapid Transit Company of this city is experimenting with women conductors on the new pay-as-you-enter cars. Two women have been detailed as conductors on the new cars, and while the officials of the Transit Company have not commented on the result of the experiment, it is said that they are pleased. The usual reasons are assigned by those who were instrumental in making the experiment. One official made the statement that "the chief aim of the company is to do away with as many of the causes of labor difficulties as possible." In other words, the officials of the company not only desire that their employes shall be docile, but also satisfied with a wage below the usual standard.

HUGHES RESIGNS.

Jersey City, N. J., Sept. 21.—Congressman William Hughes of Paterson, N. J., has forwarded to Gov. Wilson his resignation as a member of Congress of the Sixth New Jersey District, and it will take effect September 27, three days after the State primaries will have been held. As stated in a previous issue of the News Letter, Mr. Hughes is now a candidate for the Democratic nomination for United States Senator at the coming primaries. He was also a leader in the labor group in Congress and author of the eight hour bill adopted by the Sixty-second Congress, and signed by the President. The fact that Mr. Hughes will not occupy a seat in the House of Representatives is a distinct loss to the labor movement, and is to be regretted, as his services have been exceedingly valuable to labor throughout the entire country.

STRIKE OF GRANITE CUTTERS.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Sept. 21.—The Winston-Salem branch of the Granite Cutters' Association has suspended work in the employment of one firm against the "tasking" system. The shed foreman, acting for the firm, laid down a certain task that men must do to retain employment, and when the firm, through the foreman, refused to withdraw the notice all of the union men refused to continue at work, they rebelling against this system of economic slavery. It is doubtful if non-union men can be found to take the union men's places, for even to non-union granite cutters, if any can be found, the tasking system does not look good.

MINE MANAGERS TO MEET.

Pittsburg, Sept. 21.—A national conference of mine managers, superintendents, company surgeons, and first aid experts has been called by the United States Bureau of Mines to meet at the government experiment station in this city on September 25. The bureau reports a decrease of 300 in the yearly death list from mine explosions during 1911. This is believed to be due to the active work of the bureau, which has encouraged at least 1,000 mining companies to include rescue stations in their equipment.

WORKMEN'S LAW SUCCESS

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 21.—According to a report just sent out by the commissioner having in charge the Workmen's Compensation Bureau, the Washington State insurance system has succeeded beyond the best hopes of its friends and sponsors. "In this act one of the youngest States is giving the older Commonwealths another example of the wise progressive law. The State's control over public utility corporations, giving the suffrage to women, eight-hour laws for underground miners and women wage earners, full crew law for railways, and other laws enacted during the past four years in the interest of labor, deserve full praise, and should not be forgotten in the triumph of our compensation act. The compensation law of this State has forty-seven compulsory classes or groups. All other States having laws of this character are elective or optional. From the forty-seven groups mentioned there has been paid into the accident fund $791,483.57, from which in ten months $503,144.68 has been taken for cash accident awards and reserves to guarantee pensions of widows and orphans. The compensation act has thus ushered in an era of publicity regarding the appalling maiming, dismembering, and killing of workmen in the mines, mills, and workshops of the State." The general feeling among the people of this State is that the compensation act is an unqualified success.

ANOTHER COAL CRISIS.

London, Sept. 21.—Another national coal strike is threatened. It has long been apparent that the minimum wage act had only temporarily poured a little oil on troubled waters, and the increasing dissatisfaction with the measure is likely to precipitate another contest. It is expected that definite action will be taken at the annual conference of the Miners' Federation, which meets at Swansea on October 1, and it is asserted in mining circles that a new campaign will be decided upon. The parliamentary action which brought to a close the last strike only affects, it is contended, a few of the workers, and the new campaign contemplated will be in favor of a higher maximum wage for all coal hewers and a minimum for surface workers who are left outside of the act passed last April. The more outspoken members of the Miners' Federation assert that the minimum wage agitation is merely the beginning of a greater campaign for all around improvement in the condition of the workers in and around coal mines. It is also expected that the delegates at the conference will indorse the proposal for a new national movement in favor of the nationalization of coal mines.

LONGSHOREMEN SETTLE.

Aberdeen, Wash, Sept. 21.—The locals of the International Longshoremen's Association, representing the Longshoremen of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, have accepted the terms offered by the Gray's Harbor Stevedore Company, and have returned to work after a bitter struggle. It was agreed that the Longshoremen would be paid for overtime at the rate of time and a half from 5 p. m. until 7 a. m. The wages for the regular time are to be 50 cents per hour. The agreement was secured by a committee of the unions and representatives of the international organization from Portland and Tacoma. With this settlement many of the union men who had gone to Astoria, Tacoma, and other points will now return. The families of most of the men who left this city on account of the strike reside here and this settlement will not only be of interest to the unionists, but to the business men also.

TWO UNION MEN NOMINATED.

Denver, Sept. 21.—In the primaries recently held in this State to nominate candidates for United States Senate, Congressmen, and State officials, two union men were nominated for prominent offices. Roady Kenehan, for many years the secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Journeymen Horse Shoers, was nominated on the Democratic ticket for State auditor. Roady has held a State office for six years. Edward Keating, formerly a proofreader on the Rocky Mountain News, and a member of the Typographical Union, has been nominated for Congress on the Democratic ticket.

TO AMALGAMATE TAILORS.

London, Sept. 21.—Arrangements are to be made to commence a campaign for the purpose of amalgamating all of the unions connected with the tailoring and clothiers' trade under the title of the United Garment Workers' Union. There are at present some twenty separate societies dealing with various sections of this industry. Under the auspices of the General Federation of Trade Unions a conference has been held at Nottingham, the result of which was the appointment of a committee to draw up a scheme and rules for the proposed amalgamation.

RAISE FOR STREET CARMEN.

Detroit, Sept. 21.—Division 594, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway employes at Springfield, Ohio, a local recently organized, has secured an agreement increasing the schedule of wages 1 cent and 2 cents per hour. This agreement will bring to the 120 motormen and conductors in that city an additional wage aggregating $2,500 per year. Organizer John Rich, of the American Federation of Labor, was largely responsible in effecting the organization of the new local and securing the wage settlement.

NEW WIRELESS RULES.

Washington, Sept. 21.—New regulations for carrying out the law requiring certain wireless equipment on ocean and lake vessels were issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor recently. They establish administrative districts in charge of radio inspectors at Boston, New York, Baltimore, Savannah, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle, Cleveland, and Chicago. The regulations place the radio service on all ships under the supreme authority of the master, who must keep one operator on duty at all times.

LEATHER WORKERS.

Kansas City, Sept. 21.—President W. E. Bryan of the Brotherhood of Leather Workers on Horse Goods, states that business is improving generally and has been conducive to increasing the membership of the organization. More new members were secured during the month of August than in any one month during the past two years, and the ratio for September exceeds that of the preceding month. New label shops have been added and the members are pursuing organization work with renewed vigor.

Labor's 1912 Political Programme

The American Federation of Labor, at its convention last November, unanimously adopted the following instructions to the Executive Council of the A. F. of L.:

"The Executive Council is hereby further authorized and directed to take such further action as its judgment may warrant to secure the enactment of such legislation at the forthcoming session of Congress as shall secure the legal status of the organized movement of the wage-workers for freedom from unjust discrimination in the exercise of their natural, normal, and constitutional rights through their voluntary associations.

"And the Executive Council is further authorized and directed that in the event of a failure on the part of Congress to enact the legislation which we herein seek at the hands of Congress and the President to take such action as in its judgment the situation may warrant in the Presidential and Congressional elections of 1912."

The Executive Council of the A. F. of L., having these instructions under consideration, submitted to the national conventions of the Democratic and Republican party planks directly affecting the rights and interests of the working people of America. The propositions submitted to both party conventions were identical. We here republish the declarations of the Democratic, Republican, and the Progressive party (the latter party having been instituted after the close of the two other party conventions), in so far as they directly affect or refer to the rights and interests of the working masses. They are as follows:

REPUBLICAN PARTY'S DECLARATION

"The Republican party is now, as always, a party of advanced and constructive statesmanship. It is prepared to go forward with the solution of those new questions which social, economic, and political development have brought into the forefront of the nation's interest. It will strive, not only in the nation, but in the several States, to enact the necessary legislation to safeguard the public health; to limit effectively the labor of women and children; to protect wage-earners engaged in dangerous occupations; to enact comprehensive and generous workmen's compensation laws in place of the present wasteful and unjust system of employers' liability, and in all possible ways to satisfy the just demand of the people for the study and solution of the complex and constantly changing problems of social welfare.

"In dealing with these questions, it is important that the rights of every individual to the freest possible development of his own powers and resources, and to the control of his own justly acquired property, as far as those are compatible with the rights of others, shall not be interfered with or destroyed. The social and political structure of the United States rests upon the civil liberty of the individual; and for the protection of that liberty the people have wisely, in the National and State constitutions, put definite limitations upon themselves and upon their governmental officers and agencies. To enforce these limitations, to secure the orderly and coherent exercise of governmental powers, and to protect the rights of even the humblest and least favored individual are the function of independent courts of justice.

"The Republican party reaffirms its intention to uphold at all times the authority and integrity of the courts, both State and Federal, and it will ever insist that their powers to enforce their processes and to protect life, liberty, and property shall be preserved inviolate. An orderly method is provided under our system of government by which the people may, when they choose, alter or amend the constitutional provisions which underlie that government. Until these constitutional provisions are so altered or amended, in orderly fashion, it is the duty of the courts to see to it that when challenged they are enforced. * * *

"We favor the amendment of the Federal employers' liability law so as to extend its provisions to all government employes, as well as to provide a more liberal scale of compensation for injury and death. * * *

"We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of appropriate laws to give relief from the constantly growing evil of induced or undesirable immigration, which is inimical to the progress and welfare of the people of the United States.

"We favor the speedy enactment of laws to provide that seamen shall not be compelled to endure involuntary servitude, and that life and property at sea shall be safeguarded by the ample equipment of vessels with life-saving appliances and with full complements of skilled, able-bodied seamen to operate them."

"The approaching completion of the Panama Canal, the establishment of a Bureau of Mines, the institution of postal savings banks, the increased provision made in 1912 for the aged and infirm soldiers and sailors of the republic and for their widows, and the vigorous administration of the laws relating to pure food and drugs, all mark the successful progress of Republican administration and are additional evidence of its effectiveness."

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S DECLARATION

"At this time, when the Republican party after a generation of unlimited power in its control of the Federal government is rent in factions, it is opportune to point to the record of accomplishment of the Democratic House of Representatives in the Sixty-second Congress. We indorse its action and we challenge comparison of its record with that of any Congress which has been controlled by our opponents.

"It has passed a bill to prevent the abuse of the writ of injunction.

"It has passed a law establishing an eight-hour day for workmen on all national public work. * * *

"We repeat our declarations of the platform of 1908, as follows:

"'The courts of justice are the bulwark of our liberties, and we yield to none in our purpose to maintain their dignity. Our party has given to the bench a long line of distinguished justices, who have added to the respect and confidence in which this department must be jealously maintained. We resent the attempt of the Republican party to raise a false issue respecting the judiciary. It is an unjust reflection upon a great body of our citizens to assume that they lack respect for the courts.

"'It is the function of the courts to interpret the laws which the people enact, and if the laws appear to work economic, social, or political injustice, it is our duty to change them. The only basis upon which the integrity of our courts can stand is that of unswerving justice and protection of life, personal liberty, and property. As judicial processes may be abused, we should guard them against abuse.

"'Experience has proved the necessity of a modification of the law relating to injunction, and we reiterate the pledges of our platforms of 1896 and 1904 in favor of a measure which passed the United States Senate in 1896, relating to contempt in Federal courts, and providing for trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt.

"'Questions of judicial practice have arisen, especially in connection with industrial disputes. We believe that the parties to all judicial proceedings should be treated with rigid impartiality, and that injunctions should not be issued in any case in which an injunction would not issue if no industrial disputes were involved.

"'The expanding organization of industry makes it essential that there should be no abridgment of the right of the wage-earners and producers to organize for the protection of wages and the improvement of labor conditions, to the end that such labor organizations, and their members, should not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

"'We pledge the Democratic party to the enactment of a law creating a department of labor, represented separately in the President's cabinet, in which department shall be included the subject of mines and mining.'

"We pledge the Democratic party, so far as the Federal jurisdiction extends, to an employes' compensation law providing adequate indemnity for injury to body or loss of life. * * *

"We rejoice in the inheritance of mineral resources unequaled in extent, variety, or value, and in the development of a mining industry unequaled in its magnitude and importance. We honor the men who, in their hazardous toil underground, daily risk their lives in extracting and preparing for our use the products of the mine, so essential to the industries, the commerce, and the comfort of the people of this country. And we pledge ourselves to the extension of the work of the Bureau of Mines in every way appropriate for national legislation with a view of safeguarding the lives of miners, lessening the waste of essential resources, and promoting the economic development of mining, which, along with agriculture, must in the future, even more than in the past, serve as the very foundation of our national prosperity and welfare, and our international commerce. * * *

"We urge upon Congress the speedy enactment of laws for the greater security of life and property at sea; and we favor the repeal of all laws, and the abrogation of so much of our treaties with other nations as provide for the arrest and imprisonment of seamen charged with desertion and violation of their contract of service. Such laws and treaties are un-American, and violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the Constitution of the United States. * * *

The law pertaining to the civil service should be honestly and rigidly enforced, to the end that merit and ability shall be the standard of appointment and promotion, rather than service rendered to a political party; and we favor a reorganization of the civil service, with adequate compensation commensurate with the class of work performed, for all officers and employes; we also recommend the extension to all classes of civil service employes of the benefits of the provisions of the employers' liability law; we also recognize the right of direct petition to Congress by employes for the redress of grievances."

PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S DECLARATION

The Progressive party demands such restriction of the power of the courts as shall leave to the people the ultimate authority to determine fundamental questions of social welfare and public policy. To secure this end its pledges itself to provide:

First. That when an act, passed under the police power of the State, is held unconstitutional under the State constitution by the courts, the people, after an ample interval for deliberaion, shall have an opportunity to vote on the question whether they desire the act to become law notwithstanding such decision.

Second. That every decision of the highest Appellate Court of a State declaring an act of the Legislature unconstitutional on the ground of its violation of the Federal Constitution shall be subject to the same review by the Supreme Court of the United States as is now accorded to decisions sustaining such legislation.

The Progressive party, in order to secure to the people a better administration of justice, and by that means bring about a more general respect for the law and the courts, pledges itself to work unceasingly for the reform of legal procedure and judicial methods.

We believe that the issuance of injunction in cases arising out of labor disputes should be prohibited when such injunctions would not apply when no labor disputes existed.

We also believe that a person cited for contempt in labor disputes, except when such contempt was committed in the actual presence of the court, or so near thereto as to interfere with the proper administration of justice, should have a right to trial by jury.

"The supreme duty of the nation is the conservation of human resources through an enlarged measure of social and industrial justice. We pledge ourselves to work unceasingly in State and nation for: Effective legislation, looking to the prevention of industrial accidents, occupational diseases, overwork, involuntary unemployment, and other injurious effects, incident to modern industry.

"The fixing of minimum safety and health standards for the various occupations, and the exercise of the public authority of State and nation, including the Federal control over interstate commerce, and the taxing power, to maintain such standards.

"The prohibition of child labor.

"Minimum wage standards for working women, to provide a 'living wage' in all industrial occupations.

"The general prohibition of night work for women, and the establishment of an eight-hour day for women and young persons.

"One day's rest in seven for all wage-workers.

"The eight-hour day in continuous twenty-four-hour industries.

"The abolition of the convict contract labor system.

"Substituting a system of prison production for governmental consumption only.

"And the application of prisoners' earnings to the support of their dependent families.

"Publicity as to wages, hours, and conditions of labor.

"Full reports upon industrial accidents and diseases, and the opening to public inspection of all tallies, weights, measures, and check systems on labor products.

Standards of compensation for death by industrial accident and injury and trade disease which will transfer the burden of lost earnings from the families of working people to the industry and thus to the community.

The protection of home life against the hazards of sickness, irregular employment and old age through the adoption of a system of social insurance adapted to American use.

The development of the creative labor power of America by lifting the last load of illiteracy from American youth and establishing continuation schools for industrial education under public control and encouraging agricultural education and demonstration in rural schools.

The establishment of industrial research laboratories to put the methods and discoveries of science at the service of American producers.

We favor the organization of the workers, men and women, as a means of protecting their interests and of promoting their progress.

"We pledge our party to establish a Department of Labor, with a seat in the Cabinet and with wide jurisdiction over matters affecting the conditions of labor and living. * * *

"The Progressive party, believing that no people can justly claim to be a true democracy which denies political rights on account of sex, pledges itself to the task of securing equal suffrage to men and women alike."

From a careful perusal of these declarations it will be observed that the National Convention of the Republican party totally ignored the questions affecting labor's demands for the principles of justice and human liberty. The declarations of the Democratic party upon these questions is a reaffirmation of its favorable platform planks of 1908, while that of the Progressive party is equally outspoken and favorable. The addresses of the Presidential nominees of these parties in connection with their candidacy and the activities of each in the past, as well as their respective parties, must also be borne in mind. The candidate of the Republican party, Mr. Taft, has accentuated his antagonism to the correction of the evil and abuse of the injunctive power and trial by jury in charges of indirect contempt. The candidates of the Democratic and of the Progressive party, Gov. Wilson and Mr. Roosevelt, have been outspoken in favor of these reforms.

Candidates and parties are to be judged by their actions in preference to their declarations. Of the Republican party, as a party, so long as it has had entire control of the legislation and the administration, it was impossible to get from it any consideration, much less action, on any fundamental question affecting the rights, interests of and the justice due to the toilers of our country, as evidenced by the deaf ear turned toward the toilers by Congress when the bill of grievances and protest were presented to the President of the United States, Mr. Roosevelt, and the President pro tem. of the Senate, Mr. Frye, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Cannon.

The failure to secure relief or consideration at the hands of the Republican party was the cause and the justification for the A. F. of L. campaigns of 1908 and 1910; and though our efforts were not crowned with success in 1908, yet, because it was the paramount issue in the campaign of that year, the principles involved were thoroughly discussed, and 6,393,182 citizens of the United States cast their votes in support of them.

Six Congressmen, trade unionists, with paid-up union cards, were elected.

In 1910 the political complexion of the House of Representatives was changed, and fifteen trade unionists were elected to Congress. But in addition to the election of fifteen trade union Congressmen, a large number of antagonistic Congressmen were defeated by the work of organized labor's campaign when they sought re-election, and men pledged to labor's demands elected in their stead.

Due to the presentation of the bill of grievances, the campaigns of 1908 and 1910, the political, legislative, and administrative atmosphere was greatly clarified, and the demands of labor found expression in laws enacted and progress in legislation made.

American Federation of Labor's Success in Securing and Advancing Remedial Legislation

We present here a report of the A. F. of L. Legislative Committee, giving in detail and in summary the laws passed and the advancement of bills in Congress:

Washington, D. C., Aug. 26, 1912.

Mr. Samuel Gompers, President American Federation of Labor.

Dear Sir and Brother: We, the undersigned Legislative Committee, submit to you herewith our final report on the status of legislation before the second session of the Sixty-second Congress.

Anti-trust and Injunction Limitation.

The Bartlett bill, H. R. 23189, which was favorably reported out of the House Committee on Labor on April 22, is on the calendar of the House. We are informed by authoritative sources that it will be one of the first measures taken up for consideration at the next session.

Compensation.

The compensation bill, applicable to employes of common carriers by railroads engaged in interstate commerce, which passed the Senate on May 6, 1912, by a vote of 64 to 15, is still in the House Judiciary Committee.

Convict Labor Bill.

H. R. 5601, which has for its purpose the protecting of fair manufacturers and free labor from convict-made goods and requiring the sale of convict-made goods to conform to the laws relative to convict-made goods in the States in which they are sold, passed the House on March 4, 1912, and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and in turn referred to a subcommittee, of which Senator Brown of Nebraska is chairman. Many efforts have been made by your legislative committee to have the subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee report this bill to the Senate, but no action has been taken.

Contempt Bill.

The Clayton bill, H. R. 22591, passed the House on July 11, a roll-call vote showing the following results: In favor, 233; against, 18. This bill is in the Judiciary Committee of the Senate. This bill provides for a trial by jury for all contempts alleged to have occurred outside of the court and so far removed from it as not to interfere with the administration of justice. The bill will be one of the first to receive the consideration of the Senate at the session beginning in December.

Department of Labor.

Mr. Sulzer's bill, H. R. 22913, creating a Department of Labor, with a Secretary, who shall be a member of the President's Cabinet and who shall have the power of mediation in trade disputes and the right to appoint conciliators in such cases when, in his judgment, it is wise to do so, but shall have no power to enforce his views upon the contending parties. This bill passed the House by unanimous vote on July 17, 1912, and was referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. Senator Borah of Idaho (chairman) called a meeting of this committee for the consideration of this bill two days after the reference was made to his committee. President Gompers made a very able and lengthy argument before the committee in advocacy of the bill, whereupon the chairman was authorized to report the bill favorably to the Senate, which was done. Senator Borah called up the bill in the Senate on August 6 and asked unanimous consent for its consideration. Senator Sutherland of Utah objected to its consideration. Senator Borah called the bill up on several other occasions, but was unable to get the Senate to consider it.

Eight Hours for Dredgemen.

H. R. 18787. This bill is to correct a decision by the Supreme Court, which held that dredgemen were not laborers or mechanics, but seamen, and therefore did not come under the operation of the general eight-hour law. It passed the House on July 17, with no votes against it, and was referred to the Committee on Judiciary of the Senate by the chairman pro tem. Your Legislative Committee, learning of its reference, immediately notified Senator Borah, chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor of the Senate, where, in our opinion, the bill properly belonged, and he at once asked for a change of reference to his committee, which was agreed to. The bill was favorably reported by the committee to the Senate on August 20, and several efforts made by Chairman Borah to obtain consideration by the Senate, without avail.

The General Eight-hour Bill.

Limiting the hours of daily service of laborers and mechanics employed upon work done for the United States, or for any Territory, or for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes. This bill, H. R. 9061, was introduced in the House on May 8, 1911, and referred to the Committee on Labor. It was reported favorably by said committee on August 21, 1911, passed the House December 14, 1911, reported to the Senate April 11, 1912, and passed the Senate May 31, 1912, with one or two slight amendments; those were made in order to strengthen the constitutionality of the bill. Final passage by the House out of conference June 8, 1912. Signed by the President June 19, 1912. The pen used by the President of the United States in affixing his signature to this bill in order to make it a law was presented to President Gompers immediately after it was signed.

Injunction Limitation Bill.

The Clayton bill, H. R. 23635, was taken up for consideration and passed by the House May 14. 243 members voting in favor of its passage, 31 members voting against it. This bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, and, in turn, referred to a subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee. The subcommittee is composed of five Senators, as follows: Root of New York, chairman; Sutherland of Utah, Nelson of Minnesota, Republicans, and Chilton of West Virginia, O'Gorman of New York, Democrats. A number of hearings have been had by this committee, almost the entire time of the hearings being taken up by the lawyers representing the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Founders' Association, the National Erectors' Association, the Anti-Boycott Association, and a number of the large railroad corporations.

Your Legislative Committee requested Chairman Root to set an hour on July 23, when the proponents of this bill might be heard. Senator Root agreed to this, but we were subsequently notified that there were some of the members of the subcommittee out of the city, and the hearings would go over until Thursday, July 25, at 10:30 a. m. Upon the arrival of President Gompers, Congressman William B. Wilson, and other advocates of the measure, we were informed that as the Senate would go into session at 11 o'clock it would be impossible to give much time to the hearings. Numerous requests were made upon Senator Root to call his committee together, but without success, and as a consequence the following letter was sent by President Gompers to Chairman Root, which is self-explanatory:

Washington, D. C., Aug. 6, 1912.

Hon. Elihu Root, Chairman Judiciary Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: To my utter astonishment, Mr. John Moffitt, of the American Federation of Labor Legislative Committee, just informed me that your secretary, on your authority, informed him that the subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee will not hold any further hearings at this session of Congress on the Clayton bill to regulate the issuance of injunctions, the bill which passed the House of Representatives.

If the committee is to have no further hearings upon this bill before the adjournment of Congress, two grave wrongs will be committed—one, that the Senate will not have the opportunity of considering and passing this remedial piece of legislation, rectifying the existence of grave wrongs; the other, that for months there will appear upon the record of the hearings before your committee grave charges of criminality against innocent men, men whose honor and character are above reproach. Already part of these hearings, reflecting upon honored citizens, have been circulated throughout the country. As I have already said, not only will the Senate be denied the opportunity of considering and passing the bill itself, but the charges and insinuations which the committee unfairly and unjustly permitted to be made remain unchallenged and unanswered. I should be pleased to have some definite statement from you direct in regard to this subject matter. Very respectfully yours,

SAMUEL GOMPERS,
President American Federation of Labor.

On August 9 Senator Root sent the following reply:

United States Senate,
Washington, D. C., Aug. 9, 1912.

Dear Sir: Your letter of August 6 was the first intimation which I have had that you considered time of importance in presenting an answer to the statements which have been made before the committee upon the so-called anti-injunction bill. I have, in order to give you an opportunity for such reply as you wish to make, called a meeting of the subcommittee for Tuesday, the 13th, at 12 o'clock noon, and I have directed the clerk to send you a notice, which I presume he has done.

The session of Congress has reached a point where there is no possibility whatever of securing consideration of this bill before adjournment. The Senate has been sitting of late from 10 in the morning until 11 or 12 at night for the purpose of expediting the measures which it is absolutely necessary for us to pass before adjournment, and it is quite certain that no new matters will be taken up. Very truly yours,

ELIHU ROOT.

Samuel Gompers, President, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

On the date set President Gompers, with Joseph Valentine, president, and John P. Frey, editor, of the International Molders' Union, with your committee and others, appeared and made arguments in behalf of the bill.

The wholesale charges and insinuations made by attorneys for the Erectors' Association and the National Founders' Association against the men of labor were ably and vigorously refuted by Messrs. Gompers, Valentine, and Frey.

Senator Root, chairman of the committee, thereupon notified President Gompers that his committee had decided to have no further hearings on the bill at this session of Congress, as time would not permit their giving due consideration to the measure, much less the time required by the full Judiciary Committee to pass upon the merits and demerits of the bill. Therefore further hearings were postponed until December.

Immigration.

On April 19, 1912, the Senate passed the immigration bill, S. 3175, in which it incorporated the illiteracy test, by a vote of 56 in favor to 9 against it, 30 not voting, and increased the head tax from $4 to $5. This bill was then referred to the House Committee on Immigration, which committee, after prolongel consideration, decided on June 6 to strike out all after the enacting clause and add only the illiteracy test part of the bill. Many conflicting opinions have developed in the House on this bill. A petition was circulated by Representative Dies of Texas in the House of Representatives, which received the number of names required by the rules of the Democratic party, for a party caucus for the consideration of this bill. No action was taken in caucus on account of no quorum. Many efforts have been made by your Legislative Committee to have this bill called up in the House, and in every instance we were told that other committees held the calendar, and it was impossible for the Committee on Immigration to get the call at this session of Congress. Accompanying letters on this subject are self-explanatory:

House of Representatives,
Committee on Immigration and Naturalization,
Washington, D. C., July 31, 1912.

Hon. D. E. Finley, House of Representatives.

My Dear Mr. Finley: Your esteemed favor of the 30th instant has been received. Both the Burnett bill and the Dillingham bill, as substituted by the Burnett bill, were reported to the House some time ago, and I at once introduced a resolution asking for a rule to make each of these bills in order. The Rules Committee has not granted the rule, but I have a letter from the chairman, a copy of which I herewith inclose, assuring me that the rule will be reported in the early part of next December. You will understand the fact that without unanimous consent, or a rule, the bill cannot be called up until my Committee on Immigration is reached on some calendar Wednesday. As there are a number of committees ahead of mine, I cannot say whether it will be reached at this session or not. If it is, I will be sure to call the Dillingham bill up and put on its passage. I realize how earnestly you have worked with me to try to secure the passage of the restrictive measures. You were one of the few who attended the recent caucus, in which we tried to get action binding the Democratic party to these measures. You will remember also that the enemies of the measure prevented a quorum from attending the caucus. The assurance of the Rules Committee make it certain that we will get the bill up next December, and when we do I have no uneasiness about its passage. With best wishes, I am, your friend, truly,

(Signed.) JOHN L. BURNETT,
Chairman.

House of Representatives,
Committee on Rules,
Washington, D. C., July 25, 1912.

Hon. John L. Burnett, Chairman Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, House of Representatives.

Dear Mr. Burnett: Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 18, and to say that the same has had most careful consideration. Your request that the Committee on Rules take favorable action, so as to bring before the House the Dillingham bill, has been thoroughly considered.

On behalf of the Committee on Rules, I will say, as chairman, that early in December of the next session of this Congress, the bill will be brought by rule before the House of Representatives in order that it may be duly considered. Just at this time the condition of business before the Committee on Rules and in the House of Representatives is such as to render it impracticable to report a rule and give the bill consideration during the present session.

Thanking you for your letter, I am,

Very truly yours,

(Signed.) R. L. HENRY,

Chairman Committee on Rules.

Industrial Commission.

Known as the Hughes-Borah bill, H. R. 21094 and S. 5546. This bill is to create a commission to investigate the entire subject about employers and employes, with a view to ascertain the best methods of dealing with the problem, so as to protect the rights of all persons directly or indirectly interested. This bill passed the House by unanimous vote on July 17, and was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor of the Senate, and, in turn, reported favorably by that committee to the Senate, which passed the bill, with some amendments, on August 15. This sent the bill to conference, from which an agreement was reported August 21, and the bill therefore became law.

Post-office Appropriation Bill.

Which passed the House and carried with it an amendment providing for the elimination of the "gag" rule, for many weeks was under consideration by the Senate Committee on Post-office and Post Roads, of which Senator Bourne is chairman. There were great efforts made by government officials and others to have the amendment providing for the elimination of the "gag" rule stricken from the bill. President Gompers appeared before the committee and made a very lengthy and exhaustive argument in favor of the retention in the bill of this amendment, and we regret to say that when the post-office appropriation bill was reported out of the Senate committee we found that the "anti-gag" rule amendment was stricken from it. We urged the members of the Senate to restore the rights of petition and the rights of organization to the employes of the post-office, and are pleased to report that this was accomplished after a lengthy and stormy debate in the Senate. The relief sought has been secured.

Seamen's Bill.

H. R. 23673, passed the House with no opposing votes on its final passage on Saturday, August 3, 1912, and is now in the Senate Committee on Commerce, of which Senator Nelson of Minnesota is chairman. It was referred to a subcommittee, of which Senator Burton is chairman, and from whom no report was made. This bill is to give freedom to the seamen, to provide a standard of skill for seamanship, to equalize the operating expenses of foreign vessels with American vessels, so as to build up the American merchant marine without resorting to subsidies. It abolishes the last provisions in the law for compulsory labor within the jurisdiction of the United States, and, therefore, ceases to stand as a precedent for its extension.

For the past eighteen years strenuous efforts have been made by the American Federation of Labor and Mr. Andrew Furuseth, representing the Seamen's Union, to have this bill enacted into law, but without success. Much credit is due for its passage through the House to the Hon. William B. Wilson, because of his persistent labor with members in order to make the bill understood and the argument properly presented to the House.

Senators—Popular Election Of.

This measure, which labor has urged for many years, has passed Congress, and is now before the States for ratification as an amendment to the Constitution.

THE SUMMARY

In addition to the foregoing bills, there have been less important bills and items in appropriation bills in which labor was deeply interested passed by the House, and your Legislative Committee believes it proper at this time to give a summary of the bills and items in which labor was interested, and which passed the House at this session, as follows:

1. An effective Injunction Limitation bill.
2. The Contempt bill.
3. Convict Labor bill.
4. Department of Labor bill.
5. The amendment to the Post Office Appropriation bill, providing for the elimination of the "gag" order.
6. The Eight-hour bill.
7. An eight-hour provision is included in the Fortification bill.
8. An eight-hour provision for Post Office clerks and letter carriers included in the Post Office bill.
9. An eight-hour provision on all contracts in the Naval Appropriation bill.
10. An eight-hour bill for dredgemen.
11. An amendment to the Constitution providing for the popular election of United States Senators.
12. The Children's Bureau bill.
13. The Match bill, prohibiting the manufacture of white phosphorus matches, thus protecting the health of the workers.
14. The Seamen's bill.
15. The Bureau of Mines Act amended and strengthened.
16. The Federal Compensation for Injuries Act, amended.
17. The Industrial Commission bill.
18. The inhuman stop watch, high-speed schemes of employers to drive workmen, have been investigated and rejected by a competent committee of the House.
19. Publications by the trade unions and fraternities have been fostered by the passage through the House of the "Dodds bill."
20. By the enacting of the plate printers' bill, the people's money will be protected from the sharp practice of counterfeiters.
21. The securing of an appropriation of $20,000 from the House Appropriation Committee for a continuance of the investigation of the working conditions in the iron and steel industries by the Department of Commerce and Labor.
22. Securing an increase in salaries for employes of the Bureau of Labor.
23. Retention in the Bureau of Labor of the normal duties of the bureau.
24. Eight hours for railroad telegraphers, H. R. 25040, was reported out of the Committee of the House on Interstate Commerce on August 6, 1912, and is on the calendar of the House for early consideration at the next session of Congress; also an amendment to the Erdman act, which is in the same position.
25. Musicians' bill—House joint resolution No. 202, known as the Musicians' bill, which provides that enlisted musicians shall not come in competition with civilian musicians, has been favorably reported by the House Committee on Labor, and is now on the calendar. This will probably pass at the next session of Congress.
26. An increase of five cents per hour was obtained for the printing pressmen in the Government Printing Office at Washington, D. C. While the representatives of the printing pressmen were endeavoring to obtain an increase of ten cents per hour, your Legislative Committee assisted materially in obtaining an increase of five cents per hour. Until your Legislative Committee became interested in this item there was little or no disposition shown on the part of the members of the House or Senate to grant any increase.
27. Free smoker bill, H. R. 24741, by Mr. Peters, passed the House by unanimous vote on Tuesday, July 16, 1912.
28. Porto Rico—The Citizenship bill for Porto Rico has passed the House and is now in the Senate committee.

The bills that passed the Senate and are pending in the House are the—

1. Workmen's compensation bill.
2. Immigration bill.

The bills that passed both Houses of Congress and became law are—

1. Rights of hearing, petition, and associations restored to post-office employes.
2. Popular election of Senators.
3. General eight-hour bill.
4. Eight hours in the fortification bill.
5. Eight hours in the naval bill.
6. Eight hours for letter carriers and clerks in post-offices.
7. Phosphorus match bill.
8. Children's bureau bill.
9. Extension of Federal compensation for injuries act.
10. Industrial Relations Commission.
11. Second-class rate for trade union and fraternal publications (Dodds amendment).

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR E. HOLDER,
JOHN A. MOFFITT,
GRANT HAMILTON,
Legislative Committee,
A. F. of L.

A RESUMÈ

The following article, relative to the political programme inaugurated and carried on, by the American Federation of Labor, is made up of copious extracts taken from the editorials and speeches of President Gompers, as well as from official documents issued by the American Federation of Labor. It records in chronological order the events political as they relate to the activities of the American Federation of Labor.

The position of organized labor upon the question of political action was clearly set forth in the following declaration, unanimously adopted by the Nashville convention of the American Federation of Labor in 1897, and reaffirmed at various times since:

"Resolved, That the American Federation of Labor most firmly and unequivocally favors the independent use of the ballot by the trade unionists and workmen, united regardless of party, that we may elect men from our own ranks to make new laws and administer them along the lines laid down in the legislative demands of the American Federation of Labor, and at the same time secure an impartial judiciary that will not govern us by arbitrary injunctions of the courts, nor act as the pliant tools of corporate wealth.

"Resolved, That as our efforts are centered against all forms of industrial slavery and economic wrong, we must also direct our utmost energies to remove all forms of political servitude and party slavery, to the end that the working people may act as a unit at the polls at every election."

Owing to the inactivity of Congress relative to remedial labor legislation, there came an insistent demand from the organized workmen, as well as the unorganized, that measures be adopted to bring forcibly to the attention of the law making branch of the government the fact that labor was unjustly suffering from discrimination in the execution of law, and further that the courts were usurping their functions by the indiscriminate issuance of injunctions in labor disputes. In 1906 the hostility of Congress and the courts reached high tide, and the presidents of all affiliated international unions were invited to meet the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor at headquarters on March 21, 1906, and participate in a conference concerning matters affecting labor's interests Congressionally and administratively. The presidents or their duly credentialed representatives participated, and unanimously and enthusiastically indorsed what is now historically known as "Labor's Bill of Grievances." This document called specific attention to the nonenforcement of laws enacted in the interest of labor, the abuse by the courts of the injunctive writ, the application of the anti-trust law to labor unions, the denial of the right of petition by government employes by Executive order, the rights of seamen, and other matters of vital interest to the workmen of our country.

This bill of grievances was presented to Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States; William P. Frye, then President pro tempore of the United States Senate, and to Joseph G. Cannon, then Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The presentation of this document was the opening declaration that the organized labor movement proposed to hold to account those responsible for legislation or for the failure of legislation, as well as those who had been commissioned to execute the law.

In the following June, 1906, it was determined to enter the Second Congressional District of Maine for the purpose of opposing the re-election of Charles E. Littlefield, who had been conspicuous in his hostility in Congress against every measure which sought to give labor a square deal. This campaign was the first active and formal entrance on the political field of organized labor in an effort to awaken not only the trade unionists, but the public as well, to the indifference and hostility of many of the members of the United States Senate and the House of Representatives against the just demands being insistently made for remedial legislation. The prosecution of this campaign electrified the trade unionists, and served to arouse much interest among the people at large. Congressman Littlefield was not defeated, but his usual majority of 5,000 was reduced to approximately 1,000. The fight which labor made against the Maine Congressman aroused other opposition to him, with the result that he eventually resigned his seat in Congress. Thus one of labor's most bitter antagonists was eliminated from the lawmaking branch of the government.

The Maine election occurred in September, and following the Littlefield campaign a vigorous canvass was conducted by the men of labor in other Congressional districts throughout the country in an effort to "leave at home" hostile Congressmen. Where trade unionists had secured nominations for Congress the American Federation of Labor actively assisted in the campaign for their election.

In the June, 1912, American Federationist, there appeared an editorial written by Samuel Gompers, entitled, "Elect Trade Union Congressmen," and contains an epitome of labor's struggle on the political field. Extracts therefrom are here produced:

"Fifteen members of the United States House of Representatives are trade unionists in good standing in their respective unions. The achievement of this remarkable result of three Congressional campaigns typifies the aggressiveness of the trade unionists in the Congressional districts from which these members were elected, and emphasizes the potency of well directed trade union effort.

"The year 1906 marked a concerted movement of organized labor into the field of national politics—not for the purpose of promoting the interests of any political party—but to secure representation in the popular branch of Congress by the election of trade unionists without regard to the political party with which they affiliated.

"The controlling motive which crystallized into action the political activity of organized labor was the fact that the courts persistently increased their jurisdiction and usurpation, and continued issuing their injunctions in greatly aggravated form, invading the rights and liberty of the workers, and denying the equality before the law guaranteed by the Constitution. Congress had not only been apathetic toward proposed remedial legislation affecting the interest of labor, but, amongst the controlling characters in the dominant party, open hostility was apparent. Members of Congress known to be hostile to the trade unions, and elected from districts where the organizations of labor were numerically small, were assigned to committeeships with the sole purpose of smothering intended legislation designed to secure relief from injustice and wrongfully administered laws. This hostility became so marked that it was decided to register a vigorous protest against the machinations of these political misrepresentatives. This slogan was adopted as Labor's Watchword.

"We will stand by our friends and administer a stinging rebuke to men or parties who are either indifferent, negligent, or hostile, and wherever opportunity affords, secure the election of intelligent, honest, earnest trade unionists, with clear, unblemished, paid-up union cards in their possession."

"This watchword of labor met with a hearty response. The records of Congressmen were scrutinized and furnished to those requesting such information, and where these records showed hostility to labor's interests, trade unionists used their influence to the end that labor's enemies might be defeated. The first contest revealed the efficacy of the effort. Six trade unionists in full standing with their respective organizations, were elected to membership in the National House of Representatives.

"This small group signalized the direct entrance of organized labor as a factor in the lawmaking branch of the Federal government. Political faddists and theorists, of course, ridiculed the policy of trade unionists in coining their balance of power into definite results. Illusory programmes were pushed to the fore and profuse predictions were made that labor's efforts would prove abortive, but the election of six trade union Congressmen in the first contest constituted indisputable evidence that material results had been achieved.

"While the then dominant party refused to change its policy in any material way, yet the labor group made an effective impression. Organized labor was aroused to the possibilities of adding to the initial labor group, and in the elections of 1908 four additional trade unionists were successful in securing election to the House. With a group of ten trade union Congressmen, the plan of following the lines of least resistance showed results that could not go unrecognized. Congress and the public generally became convinced that Labor proposed to exercise its political rights, to the end that Congressional relief should be secured.

"The Sixty-first Congress showed a marked reduction of the dominant party's strength, and a corresponding added influence of the labor group. Hostility became tempered with some reason, a dawning realization of the power of Labor became apparent to political prophets, and a change in attitude toward Labor's demands was noticeable. While it could not be expected that the full fruition of trade union hopes could be realized with this small labor group, yet with the softening attitude of the hostile forces, brought about solely by persistent trade union vigor, with constantly increasing activity in every part of the country to the end that the labor group should be augmented, Labor's prospects were materially brightened.

"With hope and determination the trade Unionists entered the congressional campaign of 1910, and conducted a contest that is memorable in the history of our country. The result of Labor's third campaign was the still further addition of five more members, augmenting the labor group to a total of fifteen. In the present Congress, the Sixty-second, these fifteen trade union Congressmen have performed conspicuous service. The labor group has continually grown, the initial effort electing six trade unionists to Congress; the second effort, re-electing the first six and adding four more, while the third effort totaled fifteen. This gratifying result could not have been accomplished in any other way than that adopted.

"The election of the present Congress witnessed the overthrow of the dominant party in the House and a material reduction of its numerical strength in the Senate.

"The labor group has been fittingly recognized in important committee appointments. The chairman of the House Committee on Labor is a staunch and tried trades unionist, and that committee, instead of being the charnel house of labor's measures as formerly, now responds to the justice of labor's needs. Important legislation in the interest of labor has been reported out and passed, while other measures are pending.

"The House Labor Committee has done splendid work during the present session of Congress. As is well known, the chairman of that committee is W. B. Wilson, formerly secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, who is not only a man of marked ability, but staunch and true to labor and all the people. Associated with him upon this committee are James P. Maher, former treasurer of the United Hatters of North America; Frank Buchanan, former president of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, and David J. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers. The highest commendation is deserved and accorded to them. It must be noted, in addition to these union men upon the Labor Committee, that the other members of the Labor Committee are friendly and sympathetic toward labor's bills."

In the July, 1912, American Federationist President Gompers published an editorial entitled "Labor on Guard and Insistent." It follows:

"The price of liberty is intelligent knowledge and eternal vigilance. The people, and particularly the workers, cannot always trust to political mechanism or past achievements. The struggle for justice is no place for weaklings. The passive bystander may share the benefits, but he bears no burdens of the battle to secure them. If labor wants industrial and political justice and liberty, legislation and administration in the interests of the people, it must pay the price, the price of hard, constant, and persistent effort. A fair control over the preliminary movements gives strategic power in the fight. Now is the time to seize that power. Now is the time to be up and doing.

"With concentration and integration of the industrial organization government has extended the scope of its functions to control and regulate conditions of production. The degree and kind of control must be determined by the legislative body; not nullification, but application and enforcement are the domain of the executive and judicial departments. For years big business has controlled all three divisions of the State. In a democracy, such as exists, at least in theory, in the United States, the final arbiter of industrial and political relations must be the people.

"Six years ago organized labor, aroused by imminent peril to its economic freedom, made certain demands of the political parties. Unheeded, it carried the case directly to the people. Rousing and molding public opinion to an intelligent knowledge of conditions made advantageous changes in the election returns, resulting in the election of fifteen members of Congress who hold trade union membership. They are as follows:

W. B. Wilson, coal miner, Blossburg, Pa., Democrat.

Robert E. Lee, blacksmith, Pottsville, Pa., Democrat.

John A. Martin, locomotive fireman, Pueblo, Col., Democrat.

William J. Cary, commercial telegrapher, Milwaukee, Republican.

Victor L. Berger, typographical union, Milwaukee, Socialist.

William Hughes, textile workers, Paterson, N. J., Democrat.

Frank Buchanan, structural iron worker, Chicago, Democrat.

James T. McDermott, commercial telegrapher, Chicago, Democrat.

David J. Lewis, coal miner, Cumberland, Md., Democrat.

Charles B. Smith, commercial telegrapher, Buffalo, N. Y., Democrat.

Carl C. Anderson, musician, Fostoria, Ohio, Democrat.

Isaac R. Sherwood, typographical union, Toledo, Ohio, Democrat.

E. E. Roberts, metal miner, Carson City, Nev., Republican.

John R. Farr, typographical union, Scranton, Pa., Republican.

James P. Maher, hatter, Brooklyn, N. Y., Democrat.

"As a result of this achievement of organized labor politicians gave some heed to registered public opinion, but the workers, the people themselves, must be progressive. One victory must be followed by another, and then more and more, for many grave wrongs remain unrighted—many rights yet to be attained. With this purpose in view, the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor passed by unanimous vote the following instructions to the executive council:

"The Executive Council is hereby further authorized and directed to take such further action as its judgment may warrant to secure the enactment of such legislation at the forthcoming session of Congress as shall secure the legal status of the organized movement of the wage-workers for freedom from unjust discrimination in the exercise of their natural, normal, and constitutional rights through their voluntary associations.

"And the Executive Council is further authorized and directed that in the event of a failure on the part of Congress to enact the legislation which we herein seek at the hands of the Congress and the President, to take such action as in its judgment the situation may warrant in the Presidential and Congressional election of 1912."

In compliance with the imperative direction of the Atlanta Convention, a committee of the Executive Council was appointed and waited upon the political parties and presented labor's demands to the platform committees. The platform declarations in reference to labor by the parties referred to are printed in this issue, and are presented for a full consideration by our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens.

Each central body, as well as each member of organized labor, has a duty to perform, and that duty is to see to it that wherever possible trade unionists should be nominated and elected to public office, and political movements should be closely watched. Political control is the result of a great system, built up of various spheres of influence. Party domination begins with a ward boss, extend to municipal, county, State, and then Federal agents. To secure agents responsive to the common welfare, organized labor must attack those agents of the interests wherever they may be intrenched. Trade unionists must determine for themselves what action they will take at the polls in the coming November. The record of political events and the utterances and actions of the candidates as affects labor are herein recorded, and the sovereignty of the voters is supreme in determining their action on these political questions in the coming Presidential and Congressional elections.

Men of Labor, stand true. Get busy.

Organized labor must see to it that trade union men are nominated and elected to municipal, county, and State offices; that trade union men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

Stand faithfully by our friends.

Oppose and defeat our enemies, whether they be

Candidates for President,

For Congress, or other offices, whether Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.

Get Busy! Stand True!

After the national conventions of the political parties had presented their platforms and candidates to the people, the American Federationist, in the closing sentences of an editorial devoted to a discussion of the platform pronouncements, had this to say:

"The workers and thinking men of our country will closely scan and compare and study carefully the respective declarations of the political parties. They will keep in mind the failure of the one and the response and good faith of the others, and at the right time, in a most effective manner, manifest their own interest by the exercise of their great privilege, the franchise.

"Of this one thing all may be sure, the men of labor have but one purpose to serve—the protection and promotion of the rights and interests of the toiling masses of our country to make for their common welfare and for the entire uplift of all our people."

Labor asks no special privilege, asks nothing but what is its just dues, industrially, politically, socially, and morally. It undertakes to achieve, and will achieve, equality before the law for all our people—to make life better worth living, to organize the yet unorganized—to organize, unite, and federate, and to see that the toiling masses of our country are more fully represented in the legislative and administrative affairs of our country, of our States and municipalities.

Organized labor must see to it that trade union men are nominated and elected to municipal, county, and State offices; that trade union men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

Stand faithfully by our friends.

Oppose and defeat our enemies, whether they be

Candidates for President,

For Congress, or other offices, whether Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.

Get Busy! Stand True!

Trade Unionists, It's Up to You.

The Presidential and Congressional elections are approaching. Labor's efforts have been rewarded by effective and tangible results. The future looks bright for additional numbers to the labor group in the next Congress. With continued fidelity to the cause of labor, future legislation of the Congress of the United States will bear the humanitarian impress of labor's high ideals. The history of the trade unions is a continuous narrative of loyalty and devotion to principle. A trade unionist in Congress, regardless of party affiliations, is a sentinel who will stand for right and justice, for all humanity.

Every State federation, city central body, and trade unionist should embrace the present opportunity to secure the election of trade unionists to Congress.

Candidates for Congress, other than trade unionists, who have, by their record either in or out of Congress, shown fidelity to the cause for which labor is contending, should receive the hearty support of all trade unionists. Let it not be said that trade unionists are ungrateful for the consistent and continuous service performed in the interest of labor by any public official when seeking re-election. Ingratitude for those who have proven true is a conspicuous characteristic of the ignoble. The trade unionist is true and will reward faithful service by his support.

Labor is not partisan to any political party, but is intensely partisan to a principle.

Don't be deluded by fanciful political programmes that assume to transport the labor movement to some Utopian land of promise. Strive for the better day to-day.

Material and actual results constitute the ethics of trade unionists.

The labor group in Congress can be doubled in the coming election if advantage is taken of the present opportunity. There is energy and vitality sufficient in our movement to accomplish greater achievements and there is ability enough to bulwark and retain any advantage which may be gained by the rank and file of organized labor. Fellow-workers, enter the pending contest with grim determination to achieve; to increase labor's representation in Congress.

Fellow trade unionists, you have ever proven true to yourselves, to your time, and to humanity. The cause of the trade unionists and humanity will be best conserved by a concerted effort to augment our loyal trade unionists, now members of the legislative branch of the Government.

Men of Labor, grit your teeth, organize, unite, federate. Elect bona fide trade unionists to Congress. Get busy!

We cannot express too great an appreciation of the work done in the interests of labor and humanity by the fifteen trade union members in the House of Representatives, by the Democratic members of both the House and Senate, as well as the assistance rendered by Progressive Republicans.

The Executive Council declares that the programme and policy, as carried on by the American Federation of Labor as authorized by its conventions, through the Executive Council, the Labor Representation Committee, and the organized workers throughout the country, is hereby reaffirmed and recommended to all, and urge that the programme and policy should be persistently pursued in the pending campaign of 1912 for the election of candidates for President, Congressmen, State Legislatures, and the Judiciary, in short, for all candidates for all political offices.

To our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens all over America, we urge that TRADE UNION MEN BE NOMINATED AND ELECTED to Municipal, County, and State offices; that Trade Union Men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

STAND FAITHFULLY BY OUR FRIENDS,

OPPOSE AND DEFEAT OUR ENEMIES, whether they be

Candidates for President,

For Congress or other offices, whether

Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.

Men of labor, stand true.

Fraternally yours,

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
JAMES DUNCAN, First Vice President.
JOHN MITCHELL, Second Vice President.
JAMES O'CONNELL, Third Vice President.
D. A. HAYES, Fourth Vice President.
WM. D. HUBER, Fifth Vice President.
JOS. F. VALENTINE, Sixth Vice President.
JOHN R. ALPINE, Seventh Vice President.
H. B. PERHAM, Eighth Vice President.
JOHN B. LENNON, Treasurer.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.
Executive Council A. F. of L.

Members of Trade Union Labor Group in Congress

CARL CAREY ANDERSON

Carl Carey Anderson, Democrat, from the Thirteenth District of Ohio, was born at Bluffton, Ohio, December 2, 1877. He began his career as a newsboy and bootblack, and only secured a partial education. Being of a musical temperament, he became interested in orchestra work, and became a member of the American Federation of Musicians.

He has been twice Mayor of Fostoria, Ohio, and now holds the position of president of the Board of Trade, as well as

president of the City Hospial Board in the city mentioned.

He was elected to the Sixty-first and re-elected to the Sixty-second Congress. Mr. Anderson is a member of two committees—the Committee on the District of Columbia, and the Committee on Invalid Pensions.

He gave his colleague, Mr. Sherwood, great assistance in securing the passage of the Sherwood pension bill.

Mr. Anderson has given his continuous and consistent support to all measures affecting labor, and is one of the valued members of the labor group in Congress.

CHARLES BENNETT SMITH

Charles Bennett Smith, from the Thirty-sixth District of New York, was born in Erie County, N. Y., on September 14, 1870. In early life he became a telegraph operator and a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union. He developed a taste for newspaper work, and has held many responsible positions on the newspapers in Buffalo, and is now the owner and editor of the Niagara Falls Journal. Mr. Smith enjoys the unique distinction of having been elected to the Sixty-second Congress by a plurality of one vote. Mr. Smith is a member of three committees—the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, Committee on Indian Affairs and

the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands.

Mr. Smith has been consistent and loyal in his support of all measures in the interest of labor.

JAMES P. MAHER

James P. Maher, Democrat, from the Third District of New York, Borough of Brooklyn, was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., November 3, 1865. He graduated in a prominent academy and then entered as an apprentice in the hatters' trade. Upon completing his apprenticeship he removed to Danbury, Conn., and worked as a journeyman hatter, and was later elected President of the Danbury Hat Makers' Society, and in 1897 was elected national treasurer of the United Hatters of North America. Returning to Brooklyn in 1902, he was nominated by the Democratic party for Congress in 1908, but was defeated, although making a splendid cam-

paign and race. In 1910 he was again given the nomination for Congress, and was successful in securing election.

Mr. Maher is a member of two committees, the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Public Lands. Mr. Maher has supported all labor measures referred to the Labor Committee, and his vote has always been recorded in the interest of humanitarian legislation, and is a stalwart member of the labor contingent.

JOHN A. MARTIN

John A. Martin, Democrat, from the Second District of Colorado, was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, April 10, 1868. He served one term prior to his coming to Congress in the Colorado Legislature. While Mr. Martin is now an attorney by profession, he formerly was a locomotive fireman, and is a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen.

Mr. Martin is a member of three committees, Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and

Committee on Territories. Mr. Martin was first elected to the Sixty-first Congress, and was re-elected to the Sixty-second Congress. Especially during the Sixty-second Congress he has been exceedingly active, not only so far as labor measures were concerned, but on matters of general interest.

He is one of the ready debaters in the House, and has many times been called to the Speaker's Chair when the House was in session as committee of the whole. Mr. Martin will voluntarily retire as a member of Congress on March 4, next. It is to be regretted that a man of his ability, energy, and capacity should decide to cease his labors as a member of Congress.

JAMES THOMAS McDERMOTT

James Thomas McDermott, Democrat, from the Fourth district of Illinois, located in Chicago, was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., February 13, 1872. At the age of twelve he became a messenger boy for a telegraph company and later on learned telegraphy and followed for a number of years his vocation as a telegraph operator, and is a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union.

He was elected to the Sixtieth Congress and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses.

Mr. McDermott is a member of two committees, the Committee on Agricul-

ture and the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Mr. McDermott has been a consistent and loyal advocate of all measures introduced on behalf of labor, and has been of valuable assistance to the members of the labor group. He has been successful in securing a renomination.

VICTOR L. BERGER

Victor L. Berger, Socialist, from the Fifth District of Wisconsin, was born at Neider Rubbuch, Austria-Hungary, February 28, 1860. He has worked at various trades and has been a teacher in the public schools. He was formerly editor of the Milwaukee Daily Vorwaerts and was for many years editor of Wahrheit (German) and the Socialist Democratic Herald (English). He was one of the organizers of the Social Democratic Party and has always been high in its councils. He is also one of the three secretaries for the United States of the

International Socialist Bureau at Brussels. He was elected Alderman-at-large in the city of Milwaukee in 1910, and was elected to the Sixty-second Congress the same year. He is a member of the News Writers' Union.

Mr. Berger is a member of one committee, being that of the Committee on the District of Columbia. His votes in Congress on measures affecting labor have been favorable. He has again been nominated to make the race for the Sixty-third Congress.

WILLIAM B. WILSON.

William B. Wilson, Democrat, from the Fifteenth district of Pennsylvania, was born at Blantyre, Scotland, April 2, 1862, and came to this country with his parents in 1870 and settled at Arnot, Tioga County, Pennsylvania. At nine years of age he began work in the coal mines, and upon reaching eleven years of age became a half member of the Mine Workers' Union. He has taken an active part in trade union affairs from early life, and was International Secretary Treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America from 1900 until 1908, having been re-elected each year without opposition. He has been a delegate to the conventions of the American Federation of Labor for many years, representing the United Mine Workers. In 1910 he represented the American Federation of Labor as fraternal delegate to the British Trade Union Congress. In the coal mining town where he resides—Arnot—he has always been actively identified with the coal miners' union, as well as with those of the surrounding territory. In commemoration of the valiant assistance rendered and loyalty to the interests of the coal miners of the section referred to, the mine workers have dedicated one day each year, June 18, on which work is suspended in honor of Mr. Wilson, it being familiarly known as "Wilson Day."

Mr. Wilson was elected to the Sixtieth Congress, and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses, having been successful in three succeeding elections in defeating his wealthy Republican opponent in a district which, before the entrance into the political field of Mr. Wilson, had been normally and safely Republican. He has been renominated as a candidate for the Sixty-third Congress.

Mr. Wilson is chairman of the House Labor Committee, one of the most important committees in the House of Representatives. He is the Nestor of the labor group, and has not only the confidence of his fellow-unionists in Congress, but the admiration and good will of all members of the House, irrespective of party.

His general knowledge of the affairs of men is one of Mr. Wilson's distinguishing characteristics, and men high in the councils of the party with which he affiliates seek his advice upon important questions. His record as chairman of the Labor Committee of the House eclipses any record made by previous chairmen of this committee. The actual accomplishments of this committee thus far during the Sixty-second Congress is greater in extent and scope than the combined achievements of the Labor Committee of the House during its entire existence, from the foundation of the government up to the opening of the present Congress. Associated with Mr. Wilson upon this committee are three other trade unionists: James P. Maher of New York, David L. Lewis of Maryland, and Frank Buchanan of Illinois, who have given Mr. Wilson continuous and effective support in his committee.

Mr. Wilson is a member of three committees. As already mentioned he his chairman of the Labor Committee. In addition to this he is a member of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, as well as that of Mines and Mining. Mr. Wilson has not confined his activities to the measures referred to the Labor Committee, but has given valuable assistance in securing favorable action upon measures in the interest of labor that were, by their nature, referred to other committees of the House and Senate. He has been interested and gave valuable aid in the securing of a favorable report and the passage of the seaman's bill in the House. Mr. Wilson also rendered distinctive service in assisting in securing the adoption in the House of the Clayton injunction limitation and contempt bills which were considered favorably and reported out by the Judiciary Committee of the House.

He is also the introducer and champion of an industrial education bill, which seeks to enlarge the scope of educational institutions, and provides an opportunity for the youth of the country to acquire vocational training. The work of Mr. Wilson, together with his associates, in investigating and reporting adversely on the Taylor and other systems of shop management, otherwise known as the speeding up process, was thorough and effective.

As a member of the Mines and Mining Committee he was successful in getting the Bureau of Mines act amended and strengthened.

Only the more important achievements of Mr. Wilson are here alluded to, but the record presented is sufficient to indicate the energy, faithfulness, and ability of the chairman of the Labor Committee. The record of no man serving his third term in Congress can excel that which has been made by Mr. Wilson. He has shown fidelity not only to the cause of labor, but has championed every measure which had for its purpose the protection of the rights of all the people.

The trade unionists of the entire country are extremely proud of the record made by Mr. Wilson, and rejoice in the fact that a coal miner, a trade unionist, whose life has been one of incessant and rigorous toil, has shown such conspicuous ability in the affairs of state.

DAVID JOHN LEWIS

David John Lewis, Democrat, from the Sixth District of Maryland, was born May 1, 1869, at Nuttals Bank, Center County, Pa., and began the mining of coal at nine years of age, and learned to read at Sunday School. He continued mining for fourteen years, and as a member of the Mine Workers' Union. During the years in which he was mining coal he pursued a study of the law, and was admitted to the bar in 1892.

Mr. Lewis is a member of two committees—the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Military Affairs. He was elected for the first time to the Sixty-second Congress. During his incumbency he has been of valuable assistance to the Labor Committee, and has actively championed all measures in the interest of labor.

Mr. Lewis is also a student of trans-

portation, and is considered to be an authority on the question of transportation, so far as it has to deal with express and mail matter, and introduced a bill in Congress relative to the regulation of express companies. Upon the recent adoption of the post-office appropriation bill, which carries a provision, inaugurating a limited parcels post, Mr. Lewis was active in its support and suggested changes which were adopted.

For experimental purposes, a committee was also appointed to work out many intricate details in connection with the operation of a parcels post. Heretofore it has been customary in appointing committees of this character to select from the membership of committees having in charge matters to be investigated, but in this instance a request was made from the floor of the House that Mr. Lewis be appointed to this committee, owing to his wide and extensive knowledge of the subject to be investigated and put into operation.

WE cannot express too great an appreciation of the work done in the interests of labor and humanity by the fifteen trade union members in the House of Representatives, by the Democratic members of both the House and Senate, as well as the assistance rendered by Progressive Republicans.

The Executive Council declares that the programme and policy, as carried on by the American Federation of Labor as authorized by its conventions, through the Executive Council, the Labor Representation Committee, and the organized workers throughout the country, is hereby reaffirmed and recommended to all, and urge that the programme and policy should be persistently pursued in the pending campaign of 1912 for the election of candidates for President, Congressmen, State Legislatures, and the Judiciary, in short, for all candidates for all political offices.

To our fellow-workers and fellow-citizens all over America, we urge that Trade Union Men be nominated and elected to Municipal, County, and State offices; that Trade Union Men represent its interests in the State Legislatures and in Congress.

Let organized labor's slogan live in its deeds—

> **Stand faithfully by our friends, oppose and defeat our enemies, whether they be candidates for President, for Congress or other offices, whether Executive, Legislative, or Judicial.**

Men of labor, stand true.

FRANK BUCHANAN

Frank Buchanan, Democrat, from the Seventh District of Illinois, located in Chicago, was born June 14, 1862. In his early life he worked on a farm, and later became a bridge builder and structural iron worker. He was elected the International President of the Brotherhood of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers in September, 1901, and served for four successive terms, and declined to be a candidate for re-election in 1906.

Mr. Buchanan has been active in the organized labor movement for many years, and never held a political office until elected to the Sixty-second Congress. He was a candidate for Congress in the election of 1908, but was defeated. Mr. Buchanan is a member of two committees, the Committee on Labor and the Committee on Naval Affairs. He has been a close student of all matters brought to the attention of Congress,

and has been conspicuous in the regularity of his attendance on sessions in the House. Mr. Buchanan has rendered valuable assistance as a member of the Committee on Labor, and like other members of the labor group, has ever been ready and has given his support by word and by his vote to every measure in Congress which had even a remote bearing upon the question of labor.

He has been given the nomination again for Congress, and will make the race for membership in the Sixty-third Congress.

ISAAC R. SHERWOOD

Isaac R. Sherwood, Democrat, from the Ninth District of Ohio, was born in Stanford, Dutchess County, N. Y., August 13, 1835. Mr. Sherwood is a journalist by profession and is a member of the Typographical Union. He served in the civil war and was made a brevet-brigadier general by President Lincoln for long and faithful service and conspicuous gallantry in numerous battles. Prior to his coming to Congress, Gen. Sherwood, as he is called, was twice elected secretary of state of Ohio, three

times elected judge, and was elected to the Forty-third, Sixtieth, and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses.

Mr. Sherwood is a member of two committees, being chairman of the Invalid Pensions Committee and also a member of the Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department.

During the present session of Congress Gen. Sherwood delivered one of the most brilliant and erudite speeches ever heard on the floor of the House of Representatives. It was a historical resume of the growing usurpation of the courts, and reviewed the contempt case of President Gompers, Vice President Mitchell, and Secretary Morrison, and severely criticised Justice Wright, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, for imposing jail sentences on the Federation officials.

Gen. Sherwood was also the author of what was commonly termed the "dollar-a-day pension bill," which, with some modifications, has become a law.

Gen. Sherwood has been a consistent and active supporter of all measures in the interest of labor, as well as all other legislation of a humanitarian character.

JOHN RICHARD FARR

John Richard Farr, Republican, from the Tenth District of Pennsylvania, was born in Scranton, Pa., July 18, 1857. In early life he became a newsboy, and

later a printer and publisher, and is a member of the Typographical Union. Prior to his coming to Congress he served four years on the Scranton school board, and five terms in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and was speaker during the session of 1899. He was the author of the free school book and compulsory education laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Farr was elected for the first time to the Sixty-second Congress. He is a member of two committees, the Committee on Claims, and the Committee on Education. He has given his loyal support to all measures in the interest of labor, and is a valued member of the labor group in Congress.

EDWARD EWING ROBERTS

Edward Ewing Roberts, Republican, from Nevada, was born at Pleasant Grove, Sutter County, Cal., December 12, 1870. Mr. Roberts was a metal miner and a member of the Miners' Union, but later on educated himself and taught school for several years in

California and Nevada, pursuing at the same time the study of the law, and was elected District Attorney of Ormsby County, Nev., in 1900, and served in that capacity five terms.

Mr. Roberts is a member of two committees—the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic and the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands. Mr. Roberts has been active in his support of all measures in which labor was interested. He has been given the nomination for Congress again.

WILLIAM HUGHES

William Hughes, Democrat, from the Sixth District of New Jersey, was born in 1872. He was elected to the Fifty-eighth and re-elected to the Sixtieth, Sixty-first, and Sixty-second Congresses. In his early life he was a textile worker, but later on studied law, and is now an attorney. Mr. Hughes, at this time, is a candidate in the coming primaries for United States Senator from New Jersey. He was author of the eight-hour bill, which recently passed Congress, and has become a law. He is a member of only

one committee, perhaps the most important committee in the House of Representatives, being that of the Ways and Means.

He has given valuable service in the interest of labor, and was the author of what is now known as the "Hughes amendment," in 1910, in the vote on which the then Republican House of Representatives went on record against the eight-hour law in the Panama Canal Zone. The record vote upon this amendment was the means of leaving "at home" many Congressmen, for the American Federation of Labor circulated millions of this record vote, and the trade unionists throughout the country responded, thereby defeating many of labor's enemies. In entering the primaries to seek the nomination for United States Senator, Mr. Hughes retires as a member of the House of Representatives on March 4 next.

ROBERT E. LEE

Robert E. Lee, Democrat, from the Twelfth district of Pennsylvania, was born in Schuylkill County, Pa. Mr. Lee was a blacksmith and worked at his trade for many years, being a member of his craft union. He was elected to the Sixty-second Congress from a district which has sent a Republican to Congress for many terms. Mr. Lee is the author of a bill which provides an extension of the Erdman act to include within its scope the coal miners of the country. The Erdman act now only ap-

plies to interstate transportation companies, and is, in effect, an arbitration plan.

Mr. Lee is chairman of the Mileage Committee of the House, and also a member of the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, and also on the Naval Affairs Committee.

Mr. Lee has been active in his support of labor and humanitarian measures and has worked in hearty accord with the labor group in Congress.

WILLIAM JOSEPH CARY

William J. Cary, Republican, from the Fourth District of Wisconsin, was born in Milwaukee, March 22, 1865. At the age of thirteen he was left an orphan and began work as a messenger boy, and at the age of eighteen he was a telegraph operator, and is now a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union.

He was elected Alderman in Milwaukee in 1900 and re-elected in 1902. He was also elected Sheriff of Milwaukee County in 1904. He was nominated for Congress on the first trial of the Wisconsin primary election law and was elected to the Sixtieth Congress and re-elected to the Sixty-first and Sixty-second Congresses.

Mr. Cary is a member of two committees in the House, that of the District of Columbia and Committee on Education. Mr. Cary has been active in the affairs of the District of Columbia and has given his support to all labor measures and assisted the labor group consistently and continuously. He has again received the nomination for Congress.